



COCONINO
Highways



The Sheriff's Office Welcomes "Kiko"

Thanks to a generous donation from a family in the community, the Sheriff's Office added another dog to the K-9 Unit in October 2008. Kiko is a two-year-old Belgian Malinois from Slovakia. Kiko has been assigned to Deputy Shouse in the Blue Ridge area. The donors wish to remain anonymous, but are very happy to be giving back to the community.

Deputy Shouse and Kiko attended a 320-hour Service Dog Academy in Tucson sponsored by the Arizona Department of Corrections. During the academy the team trained in obedience, patrol tactics, control work, building and area searches, suspect apprehensions and narcotic detection. Upon completion of the Service Dog Academy, Deputy Shouse and Kiko certified as a Patrol Dog Team and Narcotic Detector Dog Team under the national standards as set forth by the National Police Canine Association.

We are extremely appreciative of the many people who have made our K-9 Program a reality and a success. In addition to the previously mentioned donations, our Patrol K-9 Unit receives donations and assistance from Warren and Kristi Hubbard of Olsen's Grain in Flagstaff, Canyon Pet Hospital, and other donors who wish to remain anonymous.

The addition of the canines to our force is truly a cooperative community effort that is providing enhanced law enforcement and public safety services to our community.



Deputy Rick Shouse and Kiko

Coconino County Sheriff's Office Develops Emergency Awareness and Preparedness for Community Members

by Gerry Blair



The Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) Program educates people about disaster preparedness for hazards that may impact their area and trains them in basic disaster response skills, such as fire safety, light search and rescue, team organization, and disaster medical operations. Using the training learned in the classroom and during exercises, CERT members can assist others in their neighborhood or workplace following an event when professional responders are not immediately available to help. CERT members also are encouraged to support emergency response agencies by taking a more active role in emergency preparedness projects in their community.

Following a major disaster, first responders who provide fire and medical services may not be able to meet all of the demands for these services. Factors such as number of victims, communication failures, and road blockages may prevent people from accessing emergency services they have come to expect at a moment's notice through 911.

People will have to rely on each other for help in order to meet their immediate life saving and life sustaining needs.

One also expects that under these kinds of conditions, family members, fellow employees, and neighbors will spontaneously try to help each other. This was the case following the Mexico City earthquake where untrained, spontaneous volunteers saved 800 people. However, 100 people lost their lives while attempting to save others. This is a high price to pay and is preventable through training.

In Northern Arizona the Coconino County Sheriff's Office has taken the lead in delivering the 24 hour basic Community Emergency Response Teams Training to more than 400 community members who live within Coconino County. The Sheriff's Office has partnered with other public safety organizations to include Coconino County Public Works, Coconino County Emergency Services, the Flagstaff Police Department and many rural fire districts, to implement the Basic CERT Training.

First, instructors present citizens with facts about what to expect following a major disaster in terms of immediate services. Second, we give the message about their responsibility for mitigation and preparedness.

Third, we train them in needed life saving skills with emphasis on decision making skills, rescuer safety, and doing the greatest good for the greatest number.

Community Emergency Response Teams (CERT) continued

Fourth, we organize teams so that they are an extension of first responder services offering immediate help to victims until professional services arrive.

Grant funding provided by the Office of Homeland Security assists in defraying expenses when instructors present basic classes in remote areas of Coconino County.

Successful participants are given a CERT Backpack containing a reflective vest, safety helmet, goggles, air particulate respirator masks, gloves, a four in one utility shut off tool and basic first aid supplies. Graduates are encouraged to maintain their backpacks and add necessary items to them.

In 2007 and 2008 nine Basic CERT Classes were presented with approximately 225 graduates. Classes were held in areas to include: Flagstaff (2), Leupp, Tuba City, Tonalea/Red Lake, Forest Lakes (2), Munds Park, and one class was held for the Coconino Rural Environmental Corps. Active CERT Teams that meet on a regular basis exist in Flagstaff, Forest Lakes, Munds Park, Parks, Tusayan, and Kaibab Estates West. About 50 CERT members meet monthly in Flagstaff for a barbeque and a 2 hour in-service advanced training session.

CERT members have assisted with evacuation notification during wild-land fires, staffed road blocks, provided traffic control at major emergencies, worked in incident command centers, and assisted in emergency joint information centers. CERT members also help in non-emergency capacities to include distributing emergency preparedness information at large public gathering such as the NAU Home Show, the Coconino County Fair, and National Night Out in Wheeler Park.

In January of 2009 a basic CERT class was conducted in Tusayan with 24 community members successfully completing the Training. That group now meets on a regular basis and many of their members also attend the monthly training in Flagstaff. For more information regarding the CERT Program please call the Community Programs Planner of the Coconino County Sheriff's Office at (928) 226-5089.



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Coconino County Sheriff's Office

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Service to Community

We are committed to providing responsive and effective Service to the Community. We earn and maintain the public's trust and confidence through our integrity and professionalism. Toward these goals, we devote our personnel, resources and energy.

Coconino County Sheriff's Community Deputies Facilitate Neighborhood Watch Programs by Gerry Blair

Neighborhood Watch is similar to the Block Watch program commonly conducted in urban areas, and goes back to the concept of "neighbors looking out for neighbors" that many people remember from 30 years ago. It is one of the most effective ways to prevent and deter criminal activity, attend to home and personal security, address the safety of our children and the elderly, and to alleviate fear and isolation. Residents learn how to observe and report suspicious activity and reduce the risk of becoming a crime victim. In Coconino County, Neighborhood Watch has evolved into a form that facilitates two way communications between residents, law enforcement and other government officials. The ultimate goal of neighborhood watch is to address and improve factors that are adversely affecting the quality of life in the neighborhood.

In 2007 and 2008 fifty-three neighborhood watch meetings were held in areas to include: Doney Park, Timberline/Fernwood, Munds Park, Sherwood Forest, Kaibab Estates West, Tuba City Park, and Kachina Village Mountainaire. Community Deputies serve as facilitators and liaisons between community members and the Coconino County Sheriff's Office.

Due to the vast size and diversity of Coconino County, each neighborhood watch group develops a personality of its own and acts independent of the other groups.

Each group is participant driven so the neighbors who attend decide how often the meetings are held and it is the participants who identify topics of discussion and set agendas for future meetings. Community Deputies develop a sense of pride for their assigned neighborhood watch group and possess personal responsibility to the people who regularly attend the meetings. Deputies have provided a wide range of informational presentations on topics to include, home and personal security and safety, the awareness and prevention of drug abuse, and the lawful and safe operation of ATVs.

Coconino County Board Supervisors for Districts 2, 3, and 4 have provided Community Initiative Funding to assist with neighborhood watch programs in their respective districts. A portion of this funding is utilized to purchase and post Neighborhood Watch Signs. The signs serve as a warning to opportunistic criminals that the people who live in that area are intolerant to criminal activity or disruptive behavior and that neighbors look out for their neighbors and report suspicious activity.

Some of the neighborhood watch meetings include positive social events such as potluck meals. Neighborhood watch fosters a partnership of trust and shared responsibility between community members and the deputies who serve them.